

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

Office of Legislative Counsel

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28 July 1978

*State Dept*

Mr. Douglas J. Bennet, Jr.  
Assistant Secretary  
Office of Congressional Relations  
Department of State  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Bennet: *Doug :*

The enclosed Guidelines approved by the Director of Central Intelligence on 21 July establish criteria and procedures for the issuance of clearances to the Legislative Branch for access to sensitive intelligence maintained within the SI, TK and  systems of compartmentation. The Guidelines were prompted by the Director's concern over the proliferation of access to sensitive intelligence information.

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The oversight responsibility to be exercised by our office is not intended to impinge upon your responsibilities to grant access for compartmented intelligence. Rather, our perspective allows an evaluation of need-to-know as it relates to overall Legislative Branch requirements, and allows the interests of all community agencies to be considered.

A strict application of need-to-know should serve the objective of reducing and limiting the number of staffers requiring access and should structure the compartmented and restricted handling of sensitive intelligence within committees. We will be contacting the chairmen and staff directors of those committees who have access to compartmented intelligence to review existing clearance requirements and to establish clearance procedures in accordance with the Guidelines. We will consult with you if any readjustments of clearances affecting your Department result from our meetings.

Your assistance and cooperation in making this program effective are most necessary and your efforts in this regard will be much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Frederick P. Hitz  
Legislative Counsel

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Enclosure

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